

Statewide Farmworker Health Advisory Council
November 9, 2007
Tele-Conference Notes

Attendees

Cyndi Treaster
Doris Tompkins
Patrice Thomsen
Diana Rojas
Milton Claassen
Matinte Tosima
Tina Guenther
Jenny Tavares

Agenda Topics

1. Staff Changes.

- Gabby married and moved to TX but agreed to serve on the Advisory Committee.
- Lucia Gutierrez, regional case manager in Western KS, began in August replacing Gabby.
- Robert Stiles left for another position within KDHE.
- Pat Fernandez was shifted from eastern to central Kansas as case manager. Adjustments were made in the regions by moving counties from central to western and eastern to central Kansas.
- The eastern Kansas case manager position was posted about 1 ½ weeks ago. The intention is to interview applicants the week after Thanksgiving, but that plan may change. Applicants must have a BA (nursing/social work preferred) and be Spanish/English bilingual. In the meantime Cyndi and Pat are keeping the area covered.
- Administrative Assistant Shelly came on board in July in a full-time capacity.

2. Client Input-Focus Groups. Feed back from the grant funder stated more concrete input from program clients (other than Advisory Committee) is desired. In response, the program is planning to form eight focus groups to meet across the State. Focus group discussion will revolve around five questions about the program. Cyndi asked how 5-8 people can be enticed to come to a meeting. Suggestions include scheduling during evenings or when people don't work and provide incentives – food, gift cards, child-care during meetings, or possibly piggy-back to other events such as health fairs. Plans are to complete these during the spring so the information is available when the grant is written

in July. Representation/input from all the different ethnic groups who are served is a goal. Please email Cyndi if interested in helping with a focus group.

3. Performance Review – Summer 2008. This summer several KDHE programs, including the Farmworker Health program, will be reviewed by the Federal Government. Client information from focus groups is planned to be presented as part of the review. Advisory Council members may be contacted by monitors for information about the program, etc.

4. Impact of Immigration. Cyndi announced that KDHE has already been contacted twice by the media asking about farmworkers, immigrants and work. Her response is the program provides services to low income, non-insured, agricultural worker regardless of immigration status (as per the grant). Cyndi feels very comfortable with her message – health care for people in jobs which don't pay well or don't have health insurance. She said not to be surprised if the program is in the news. In answer to a question, the English only bill didn't really impact service provision but did raise questions by service providers. If services will be impacted by any upcoming legislation, an article will be included in the newsletter for clarification.

5. Calendars to Distribute. As discussed in the past the program produced a calendar which focuses on diabetes issues; calendars arrived yesterday. A few will be sent to all access point agencies (up to 20) and to the health promoters, case managers and some Advisory Council members for local distribution. In areas where no one person can readily distribute calendars, phone contact with registered clients will be made before mass mailing calendars. A special grant was written to pay for 3 years worth of calendars but notice of funding has not yet been received. All Advisory Council members will receive a calendar. Evaluation of calendar may be added to focus group discussions.

6. Other Issues/Questions.

Newsletter: next one planned for mid-December after the new case manager is hired so the announcement can be made.

Next tele-conference: February/March 2008.